

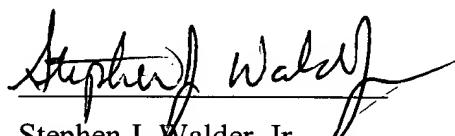
REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are now pending in the present application. The claims as amended in the Response filed on September 19, 2003 are provided above. In accordance 37 CFR 1.121 (A) (2), previous deletions of 5 characters or fewer, or where not easily perceived are shown with double brackets as requested in the Notice of Non-Compliance mailed November 19, 2003. Applicants respectfully submit that the ambiguity of the claim amendments alleged in the Notice of Non-Compliance was due to problems arising from the facsimile transmission and that the above amendments to the claims correspond to those made in the Response filed September 19, 2003. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments.

For the reasons stated in the Response filed September 19, 2003, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims define over the cited art and that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: December 10, 2003



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